

section of the Missouri National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 135th Theater Aviation Battalion, of Lebanon, MO. I want to commend them for their selfless service and sacrifice over the past year of their deployment to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn.

They were tasked with providing 24-hour-a-day command and control, supervision, staff planning, personnel service and logistical support to all units attached to the theater aviation battalion. The unit used fixed-wing aircraft to provide services to a forward deployed aviation. This allowed for the air movement of cargo, personnel, and dignitaries from the United States, NATO, and Iraq.

The section of returning Soldiers is commanded by Capt. Seth Everett, who lives in St. Louis, MO. Other members of the unit live in Lebanon, Eldon, Versailles, Linn Creek, Mountain Grove, Dixon, Liberal, Dexter, Hallsville, and Jefferson City. The unit was previously deployed to Balad in 2005.

Without soldiers like those in the 3–135th, we would not enjoy the freedoms we have today, and I am eternally grateful for their service. It is only fitting that they return home safely to their families and loved ones.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in welcoming home the members of the 3–135th, and thanking them for their continued sacrifice as members of the Armed Forces.

HONORING MS. BRIDGETTE DIXON
THURMAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman has given of herself as an educator of Dunaire Elementary, a daughter, a mother and friend; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman has been chosen as this year's Teacher of the Year, representing Dunaire Elementary school; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our Nation through her tireless works, motivational speeches and words of wisdom; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared with the world her vision and passion to help ensure that our future, our children, receive an education that is relevant for today, but also for the future; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman for her leadership and service for our District;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim March 23, 2011 as Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman Day in the 4th Congressional District. Proclaimed, this 23rd day of March, 2011.

52ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING DAY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, March 10 marked the 52nd anniversary of the Tibetan uprising against the People's Republic of China, during which His Holiness the Dalai Lama fled into exile. On that day, there was a small commemoration on Library Mall in Madison with Wisconsin's Tibetan-American community, which my staff was honored to attend. While the commemoration serves as a painful but important reminder of China's prolonged efforts to outlaw dissent, restrict free expression, and violently occupy Tibet, it also serves as a symbol of our sustained vigilance, continued determination, and enduring hope that Tibetans everywhere will soon be free to live in peace with their land and culture intact.

On this anniversary, I offer support and conviction to the thousands of Tibetans living in exile and the thousands more who have chosen to stand beside them in the struggle for freedom. I support the Middle-Way Approach proposed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama to honor the dignity of both Tibetan and Chinese people and to promote a respectful solution. I strongly believe that the United States has a responsibility to stand up for human rights and the rule of law, and I support efforts to address the plight of Tibetans.

The Dalai Lama issued a statement on March 10, as he does every year, which represents a "state of the union" speech for Tibetans. This year's statement was newsworthy, in that the Dalai Lama announced that he intends to hand over the last vestiges of his governmental responsibilities to the elected leadership of the Tibetan Government in exile, while remaining a committed advocate for the Tibet cause. At a time when despots around the world cling to power as their people yearn for democracy, the Dalai Lama's willful ceding of power is a tribute to his vision to fulfill the aspirations of the Tibetan people and should inspire others around the world.

I insert the Dalai Lama's March 10, 2011, statement into the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA
ON THE 52ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN
NATIONAL UPRISING DAY, MARCH 9, 2011

Today marks the 52nd anniversary of the Tibetan people's peaceful uprising of 1959 against Communist China's repression in the Tibetan capital Lhasa, and the third anniversary of the non-violent demonstrations that took place across Tibet in 2008. On this occasion, I would like to pay tribute to and pray for those brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for the just cause of Tibet. I express my solidarity with those who continue to suffer repression and pray for the well-being of all sentient beings.

For more than sixty years, Tibetans, despite being deprived of freedom and living in fear and insecurity, have been able to maintain their unique Tibetan identity and cultural values. More consequentially, successive new generations, who have no experience of free Tibet, have courageously taken responsibility in advancing the cause of Tibet. This is admirable, for they exemplify the strength of Tibetan resilience.

This Earth belongs to humanity and the People's Republic of China (PRC) belongs to

its 1.3 billion citizens, who have the right to know the truth about the state of affairs in their country and the world at large. If citizens are fully informed, they have the ability to distinguish right from wrong. Censorship and the restriction of information violate basic human decency. For instance, China's leaders consider the communist ideology and its policies to be correct. If this were so, these policies should be made public with confidence and open to scrutiny.

China, with the world's largest population, is an emerging world power and I admire the economic development it has made. It also has huge potential to contribute to human progress and world peace. But to do that, China must earn the international community's respect and trust. In order to earn such respect China's leaders must develop greater transparency, their actions corresponding to their words. To ensure this, freedom of expression and freedom of the press are essential. Similarly, transparency in governance can help check corruption. In recent years, China has seen an increasing number of intellectuals calling for political reform and greater openness. Premier Wen Jiabao has also expressed support for these concerns. These are significant indications and I welcome them.

The PRC is a country comprising many nationalities, enriched by a diversity of languages and cultures. Protection of the language and culture of each nationality is a policy of the PRC, which is clearly spelt out in its constitution. Tibetan is the only language to preserve the entire range of the Buddha's teachings, including the texts on logic and theories of knowledge (epistemology), which we inherited from India's Nalanda University. This is a system of knowledge governed by reason and logic that has the potential to contribute to the peace and happiness of all beings. Therefore, the policy of undermining such a culture, instead of protecting and developing it, will in the long run amount to the destruction of humanity's common heritage.

The Chinese government frequently states that stability and development in Tibet is the foundation for its long-term well-being. However, the authorities still station large numbers of troops all across Tibet, increasing restrictions on the Tibetan people. Tibetans live in constant fear and anxiety. More recently, many Tibetan intellectuals, public figures and environmentalists have been punished for articulating the Tibetan people's basic aspirations. They have been imprisoned allegedly for "subverting state power" when actually they have been giving voice to the Tibetan identity and cultural heritage. Such repressive measures undermine unity and stability. Likewise, in China, lawyers defending people's rights, independent writers and human rights activists have been arrested. I strongly urge the Chinese leaders to review these developments and release these prisoners of conscience forthwith.

The Chinese government claims there is no problem in Tibet other than the personal privileges and status of the Dalai Lama. The reality is that the ongoing oppression of the Tibetan people has provoked widespread, deep resentment against current official policies. People from all walks of life frequently express their discontentment. That there is a problem in Tibet is reflected in the Chinese authorities' failure to trust Tibetans or win their loyalty. Instead, the Tibetan people live under constant suspicion and surveillance. Chinese and foreign visitors to Tibet corroborate this grim reality.

Therefore, just as we were able to send fact-finding delegations to Tibet in the late 1970s and early 1980s from among Tibetans in exile, we propose similar visits again. At the